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Fuel bills got you down?



FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
178 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111

Fuel bills got you down?

The cost of home heating fuel today has made it serious business to stay warm! A few years ago heat was something a lot of people took for granted; today, many find it a constant concern. Where will the money come from, they ask, to pay for the oil, the gas, or whatever fuel provides that necessary heat?

For many of them, the ABCD Fuel Assistance Program can be part of the answer this winter.

What is the ABCD Fuel Assistance Program?

Now in its fifth year, the ABCD Fuel Assistance Program is a state and federally funded program, operated under government regulations, that assists many people with their oil, gas, electric, coal, or wood bills — and, depending on how the home is heated, with the rent. Households receive varying amounts of assistance, depending on their income and source of heat; those with the lowest income and most costly source of heating receive the largest payments. But all eligible households receive some level of assistance.

ABCD is one of 16 community action programs in Massachusetts that opted to include the oil from Joseph Kennedy's Citizen's Energy Corporation in this year's Fuel Assistance Program. This oil is incorporated into the overall Fuel Assistance Program and does not increase the maximum amount of assistance that an eligible household may receive.

How do I know if my household is eligible?

First, to receive assistance from ABCD, you must live in one of the six communities we serve: Boston, Brookline, Dedham, Needham, Newton, and Waltham. (If you live elsewhere, call 1-800-632-8175 for your near-

est intake office.) Second, your total household income must fall at or below the levels shown in the following chart.

Household Size	Total Yearly Income
1	\$ 6,633
2	8,768
3	11,030
4	13,620
5	16,070
6	18,800

For each additional person in the household, add \$2,730.

How much aid will my household receive?

The maximum amount of fuel assistance for which households qualify depends on two factors: the size of their income and the nature of the primary heating source they use (oil, gas, kerosene, coal, wood, propane, etc.). When you visit our intake office to file your application, the intake worker will be able to tell you how much assistance you qualify for under our guidelines. You must bring the appropriate documents, however.

When I apply, what papers should I bring along?

Basically, two types of papers: one to document your income, another to demonstrate your primary source of heat.

First, you need proof of income over at least the previous three months. One of the following constitutes acceptable proof of income:

If you are employed: a statement from your employer, or current wage stubs.

If you are unemployed: a signed, current statement from the Division of Employment Security (DES) stating your benefits, or a benefit determination form, or a TRA

(Trade Readjustment Allowance) claim card.

If you are receiving workman's compensation: a signed statement from your employer or workman's compensation board stating the amount you have received.

If you are receiving SSI, Social Security, retirement pension or veteran's benefits: a signed statement from the source of your income stating the amount received, or a copy of a current check.

If you are on welfare: a signed, current statement from your social worker noting the type of benefits and amount you received.

If you receive alimony or child support payments: a copy of the court order or a notarized statement specifying the amount received.

If you are receiving interest on dividends: If your annual income exceeds \$100 per year, a statement from the source of income showing the amount received, or a current dividend check along with a notation of how often it is received.

If you own rental property: copies of cancelled checks for at least the previous 90 days' rent, or a notarized statement from the tenants of the amount of rent they pay per week or month.

If you are self-employed: a notarized copy of Form 1040 income tax return, or a notarized statement of your income.

Then you have to show acceptable proof of need for fuel assistance:

If your primary source of heat is gas or electricity: a current paid or unpaid bill, or a shut-off notice.

If you pay your own fuel bills and your primary source of heat is oil, kerosene, liquified propane gas, coal, or wood: a current paid or unpaid bill from the dealer.

If you pay your own fuel bills and your primary source of heat is oil, kerosene, liquefied propane gas, coal, or wood and you are a C.O.D. customer: a current statement from the dealer indicating the cost of making a delivery.

If your heat is included in your rent: a signed and dated renter/owner/agent agreement; the form is obtained from an ABCD fuel assistance office.

If you live in subsidized housing and pay for your own heat: an unpaid heat bill and a signed statement from the housing agency stating the amount of your heating allowance.

Please note also that if any member of your household is a full-time student over 18, he or she must submit a signed statement from the school admissions office verifying his or her status.

Where are the intake offices?

There are more than 25 offices in the six communities served by the ABCD Fuel Assistance Program, and others not on this list serving specific groups of clients. Look for the office nearest you and give them a call today!

ABCD FUEL ASSISTANCE INTAKE OFFICES

BOSTON

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON

Allston/Brighton APAC	783-1485
141 Harvard Ave.	Brighton Lew
Allston, MA 02134	Hours: 9-3
<i>Languages: English,</i>	
<i>Spanish, Italian,</i>	
<i>Russian, Chinese, Portuguese</i>	

BOSTON (Downtown)

ABCD 357-6031
179 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02111 Hours: 9-5

CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown NEC 242-4548
1 Thompson Place John Gryzlek
Charlestown, MA 02129 Hours: 9-5
Language: English

DORCHESTER

Claybourne House 282-3090
110 Claybourne St. Charlotte Hill
Dorchester, MA 02124
Languages: English, Spanish Hours: 9-3

Dorchester House (For information
Multi-Service Center call Claybourne
1353 Dorchester Ave. House)
Dorchester, MA 02124 Hours: 9-4
Language: English

Ronan Neighborhood (For information
Association call Claybourne
252 Bowdoin St. House)
Dorchester, MA 02124 Hours: 9-4
Language: English

We Can Neighborhood (For information
Improvement Association call Claybourne
339 Talbot Ave. House)
Dorchester, MA 02124 Hours: 9-4
Language: English

EAST BOSTON

East Boston APAC 567-8857
21 Meridian St. C. Letteriello
East Boston, MA 02128 Hours: 10-4
Languages: English, Italian, Spanish

HYDE PARK

Hyde Park Y.M.C.A. 361-2300
1137 River St. Marion Hussey
Hyde Park, MA 02136 Hours: 9-5
Language: English

JAMAICA PLAIN

Jamaica Plain APAC 522-9693
379 Centre St. George Waldron
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 Hours: 9-4:15
Languages: English, Spanish T: 4:15-7

MATTAPAN

Mattapan NEC	298-2045
514 River St.	Aloma
Mattapan, MA 02126	Pendleton
<i>Language: English</i>	Hours: 9:30-3:30
Mattapan Community	296-0061
Health Center	Juanita States
1295 Blue Hill Ave.	Hours: M, W, F
Mattapan, MA 02126	9-4
<i>Language: English</i>	
Mattapan Area Project	296-6710
524 River St.	Juanita States
Mattapan, MA 02126	Hours: T, Th 9-4
<i>Language: English</i>	

NORTH END

North End NSC	523-8125
41 Prince St.	Paul Santoro
Boston, MA 02113	Hours: 9-5
<i>Languages: English,</i>	
<i>Italian</i>	

PARKER HILL/FENWAY

Parker Hill/Fenway NSC	445-6000
1552 Tremont St.	Veronica
Roxbury, MA 02120	Saurino
<i>Languages: English,</i>	Hours: 9-5
<i>Spanish</i>	

ROSLINDALE

Roslindale Family	323-0300
Connection	Mary Devlin
4256 Washington St.	Hours: 9-4
Roslindale, MA 02131	
<i>Language: English</i>	

ROXBURY

Roxbury/North Dorchester	442-5900
APAC	Georgette Leslie
2249 Washington St.	Hours: 9-5
Roxbury, MA 02119	Th: 7-9
<i>Languages: English,</i>	
<i>Spanish</i>	

SOUTH BOSTON

South Boston Action	269-5160
Center	Phyllis Curtis
424 West Broadway	Hours: 9:15-5
South Boston, MA 02127	T-F: 5-8
<i>Language: English</i>	

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424 West Broadway	Hours: 9:15-5
South Boston, MA 02127	T-F: 5-8
<i>Language: English</i>	

SOUTH END

South End NSC	267-7400
554 Columbus Ave.	Mariano Chan
Boston, MA 02118	Hours: 9-5
<i>Languages: English, Spanish, Chinese</i>	

WEST ROXBURY

West Roxbury Parkway	325-2850
Boys Club	Susan Finitis
1716 Centre St.	Hours: 9-3
West Roxbury, MA 02132	
<i>Language: English</i>	

BROOKLINE

Brookline Health Dept.	232-9020
11 Pierce St.	Roslyn Siegel
Brookline, MA 02146	Hours: M-Th:
<i>Language: English</i>	8:30-1
	F: 1:30-3

DEDHAM

Boston Edison Customer	326-1870
Service Center	Fred Purnell
374 Washington St.	Hours: 9-11:30
Dedham, MA 02026	1:4:30
<i>Language: English</i>	

NEEDHAM

Board of Health	444-5100
Town Hall	Nina Ackerman
Needham, MA 02192	Gladys Wetmore
<i>Language: English</i>	Hours: 8:30-9:30
	4-5

NEWTON

Human Services Dept.	552-7170
Newton City Hall	Steve Moskovitz
Newton, MA 02159	Diana Patten
<i>Language: English</i>	Hours: 8:30-5

WALTHAM

Boston Edison Customer	893-1840
Service Center	Carlos Franco
139 Moody St.	Hours: 9-4
Waltham, MA 02154	
<i>Languages: English, Spanish</i>	
Council on Aging	899-7228
174 Moody St.	Sally
Waltham, MA 02154	Tewksbury
<i>Languages: English, Spanish</i>	Henrietta
	Mandel
	Hours: 8:30-4



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